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WELCOME

to the 12th issue of our newsletter!

Perhaps the best indicator for the vitality of an institute is the people who work there. And so we suggest that you begin this newsletter with the section entitled "People", which offers ten pages of news on SAI people. The newsletter also includes reports on three important academics who have shaped the SAI in different ways: Hermann Kulke who turned 80 this year, which was the occasion for conducting a day-long event in his honor. Prof. Kulke was instrumental in building up the reputation of the SAI as a place for learning and research on South Asian History, and even the event was historic, with the reading room of the library packed with SAI Alumni who used the opportunity to honor Hermann Kulke and at the same time reconnect with the SAI. This year is also historic as it marks the end of the professional life of Gita Dharampal-Frick, who headed the History Department for 16 years. The two academic assistants in the department, Rafael Klöber and Manju Ludwig, not only organized a festive event in the morning and an impressive academic workshop during the day, they also managed to edit a volume of articles in honor of Gita Dharampal-Frick' retirement that encompasses the major themes she worked on in Heidelberg. Last not least, you will find a report on another dear colleague who has left SAI this year: namely, Karin Polit who after many years of teaching and research in the Department of Anthropology has now moved to Tübingen in order to take up a well deserved chair in Anthropology. We happily invite you to explore further news about the SAI – perhaps the summer will help enjoy a good read!

William S. Sax
Professor and Head
Department of Anthropology
Executive Director
South Asia Institute

Martin Gieselmann
Executive Secretary
South Asia Institute

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ACADEMIC CEREMONY IN HONOUR OF PROF. DR. GITA DHARAMPAL-FRICK'S RETIREMENT

The academic ceremony in honour of Prof. Dr. Gita Dharampal-Frick's retirement was held on July 6, 2018 from 10 am to 5 pm in the Heinrich-Zimmer-Hall at the South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University. The celebratory program with honorific speeches by Prof. Dr. William Sax (Executive Director South Asia Institute), Prof. Dr. Katja Patzel-Mattern (Dean of students, Faculty of Philosophy), and alumnus Dr. Jan Breitingger, a laudation by Prof. Dr. Monika Boehm-Tettelbach, and the presentation of the Festschrift by Rafael Klöber and Manju Ludwig. The ceremony was accompanied by 3 musical intermezzos, with pieces from Bach, Mozart and Piazzolla performed by Profs. Stefan Klonner (cello), Hans Harder (traverse flute) and Martin Jäkle (spinet). In response, Prof. Dr. Dharampal-Frick expressed her deep appreciation for being honoured for her 16 years of stimulating teaching and research at the SAI; as a symbolic gesture of gratitude she presented the SAI with a Rajasthani painting. After a reception, there was an academic symposium in the afternoon with talks by Dietmar Rothermund, Lynn Zastoupil, Monika Kirloskar-Steinbach, Hermann Kulke, Milinda Banerjee, Eleonor Marcussen and Antje Flüchter on subjects dealing with her research interests ranging from European depictions of the early modern Nairs of the Malabar Coast to Gandhi's Hind Swaraj. The festivities were concluded with the yearly summer party organized by the South Asia Institute's student council.



Photos by Borayin Larios

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CELEBRATION OF PROF. HERMANN KULKE'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

The Department of History hosted a celebratory function on the occasion of Prof. Hermann Kulke's 80th birthday in the Heinrich-Zimmer reading room of the South Asia Institute on June 7, 2018, 3–6 pm. To honour Hermann Kulke's outstanding contributions to the multi-dimensionality of South Asia's ancient and medieval history Georg Berke-mer, Tilman Frasch, Gudula Linck, Cornelia Mallebrein, Axel Michaels, Dietmar Rothermund, Burkhard Schnepel, Cornelia Schnepel and Reinhard Zöllner gave short presentations on themes relating to connectivity and transculturality. Congratulatory messages by long-standing Indian and German colleagues were read out by Gita Dharampal-Frick.



Photos by Punny Kabir

Hermann Kulke is Professor Emeritus of Asian History at Kiel University. He completed his Ph.D. in Indology at Freiburg University in 1967. From 1967 to 1988, he was a Lecturer and Professor of Indian History at the South Asia Institute at Heidelberg University. He was the co-ordinator of the Orissa Research Project of the German Research Council from 1999 to 2005 and was awarded with the Gold Medal of the Asiatic Society in Kolkata in 2006 and the Padma Shri Award in 2010. His main fields of specialisation are pre-colonial South and Southeast Asian History, the Indianization of Southeast Asia and Indian Ocean Studies, and historiography and early state formation.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO KARIN POLIT

by William S. Sax



Prof. Dr. Karin Polit's career as an anthropologist began in the late 1990s when she was an undergraduate in Queensland, Australia. During this time, she conducted ethnographic fieldwork in Tokyo as well as in the Molucca Islands, and became "hooked" on ethnographic fieldwork. She returned to Heidelberg and enrolled for the Magister degree in Anthropology while working as a research assistant at the Institute for Tropical Hygiene (later International Public Health). At that time she worked closely with Karina Kielmann, who was my first Assistant Professor for Medical Anthropology. When I asked Kielmann who her "best student" was, she introduced me to Karin, whom I invited to join my first major research project in Germany, The Healing Cult of Bhairav in the Central Himalayas. With that, her involvement in South Asia began, and she seems hardly to have looked back.

From 2002 until 2004, Polit pursued her research under my direction, living for long periods in a Dalit (formerly "untouchable") village in the former Himalayan Kingdom of Garhwal, in the North Indian State of Uttarakhand, and focusing on the lives of girls and women there. This resulted in her 2006 dissertation, later published by Orient Black Swan in India under the title *Women of Honour: Gender and Agency among Dalit Women in the Central Himalayas*. During this time she also worked closely with Prof. Dr. Data Ram Purohit, at the HNB Garhwal University in Srinagar, Garhwal, where she occasionally taught.

From 2005 onward, Karin regularly taught at the Anthropology Institute as well as at the SAI on a wide variety of topics, including (but not limited to) medical anthropology, gender, agency, feminism, ritual and theatre, media, youth, new reproductive technologies, and the anthropology of violence and mental health. In 2007, along with Martin Kunz, she organized a seminar and excursion for students on the anthropology of health and development in Delhi and Garhwal. Later on, the Institute of Anthropology experienced severe difficulties, and along with Christiane Brosius and me, Karin worked very hard to keep it afloat, in addition to her regular duties as a member of my Department. From 2005 until 2013, Karin conducted research under the direction of Dr. (now Professor) Christiane Brosius, at that time Assistant Professor in my Department, in the collaborative research area 619 Dynamics of Rituals (SFB 619 Ritualdynamik). Her research topics were youth and heritage rituals, and she was often in Garhwal, conducting fieldwork on processional rituals theatre under very demanding conditions. This research resulted in her 2015 habilitation manuscript (currently under review for publication), entitled *When Gods Set*

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out to Wander: The Value of Art, Heritage and Ritual in Uttarakhand, India. It also resulted in a number of published essays, edited books and special issues, including *Heritage Rituals or Rituals of Heritage? Performance, Identity and Commodification on National and International Stages* (New Delhi: Routledge, 2011 with Christiane Brosius), *Rituelle und Performative Lernkulturen* (Wiesbaden: Harrasowitz, 2017 with H. Walsdorf), and *Youth in South Asia* (special issue of *The International Journal of Child Youth and Family Studies*, with Christiane Brosius, 2018, under review). Karin somehow managed during these years to serve on the Executive Board of the SAI, and to conduct research in New Delhi and Dehra Dun on youth, as well as on education-related suicide. She was also a fellow at the Institute of Advanced Study at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and from 2010 until her appointment as Professor, she was a member of the Karl Jaspers Centre for Advanced Transcultural Studies at the University of Heidelberg.

From 2014 until 2018, Karin was a Margarete von Wrangell Fellow at the South Asia Institute, and active in AROGYAM ("Advances in Research on Globally Accessible Medicine"), a network linking Heidelberg, Edinburgh, JNU and the Achut Menon Hospital in Trivandrum. She was guest professor at the Department of Anthropology, South Asia Institute (2014), the Institute of Ethnology at Münster University (2015), the Centre for the Study of Social Systems (JNU, Delhi) (2015), and the Institute of Anthropology at Tübingen University (2015 and 2016). Along with these appointments, she also conducted research in Jammu and Kashmir on the topic, *Why young Kashmiris are no terrorists*. Cultural appropriation, memory and resistance in Indian-administered Kashmir.

In one way or another, most of Karin Polit's research and writing has always been concerned with issues of social justice. This was the case even when her topic did not appear to have an immediate relevance for such issues, for example her work on processional theatre, which focuses on artistic and performative hierarchies, and subtle forms of exploitation in the heritage industry.

For more than sixteen years, Prof. Dr. Karin Polit has been active in all aspects of the South Asia Institute: study, research, teaching, administration, and relations with other universities both within and outside of Germany. She has been a reliable, hard-working, cheer-



ful and productive colleague, a true team player, without whose contribution the Department of Anthropology and the SAI would have been much poorer. We congratulate her on her appointment to Tübingen University, and wish her all success there.

We will miss you, Karin!

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SANSKRIT DIVAS (SANSKRIT-DAY)

To strengthen focus on Sanskrit studies, HeidelbergSanskrit has taken the initiative to organize "Sanskrit Divas" every year on the last Friday in June which took place this year on June 29th 2018. The program started with welcome speeches by Prof. Ute Hüsken and Prof. William Sax followed by an address by Malathi Rao Vadapalli (Director of the Tagore Center, Berlin). Prof. Gopabandhu Mishra (Varanasi) and Dr. Sadananda Das (Leipzig) read Sanskrit poetry on Heidelberg. Meera Sridhar (Mysore) performed a Bharatanatyam dance, and gave a brief introduction of its basic techniques and characteristics. The students of HeidelbergSanskrit presented a short play "Tumult in Hell" (Narake Kolāhalaḥ) written and directed by Prof. Dr. Gopabandhu Mishra. Many guests, including the Consul General (Munich) Mr. Sugandha Rajaram attended the event which was partially sponsored by the Tagore Center (Berlin) of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.



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NICOLE MERKEL-HILF AT THE EMORY DIGITAL HUMANITIES SYMPOSIUM

Nicole Merkel-Hilf from the SAI library was invited by Emory University to participate at the "Emory Digital Humanities Symposium for the Study and Teaching of South Asia" which took place in Atlanta from 6.-7. April 2018.






The symposium aimed at bringing together scholars of South Asia working in four areas of the digital humanities –

1. Direct, practical uses of computational methods for research,
2. Media studies scholars studying "new" media,
3. Using technology in the classroom,
4. The way new technology is reshaping research and the profession

Around forty South Asian scholars and librarians participated in the event and eighteen digital humanities projects at different stages of development were presented, such as South Asia Open Archives (SAOA) by Ellen Ambrosone and Neel Agarwal, the PANDiT project by Yigal Bronner or The Connected Bhakti Bibliographies Database (CBBB) by Gil Ben-Herut and Jon Keune – to name just a few. Nicole Merkel-Hilf's talk on Naval Kishore Press – digital: from hidden treasure to open access focused on the OCR activities currently undertaken by the SAI library on the Naval Kishore Press collection. On the second day the future of scholarly publishing was discussed during an "Open Access Publishing Roundtable" and CrossAsia-eBooks was presented as an initiative to promote Open Access publishing in Asian Studies. It was an interesting exchange and excellent opportunity for networking. As a result, a cooperation with the South Asia Open Archives (SAOA) project for exchanging data of digitized historical books is currently considered.

Naval Kishore Press – digital: Digitizing and beyond

The image shows a digital archive interface for Naval Kishore Press. It features a search bar, a list of search results, and a detailed view of a scanned page with OCR text overlaid. The interface includes navigation tools and a sidebar with additional options.

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WINTER SCHOOL "IMAGES OF AGE AND AGEING"

by Constanze Weigl-Jäger

From 10th to 13th October 2017, the Winter School "Images of Age and Ageing" of the DAAD funded exchange program (Heidelberg University and Jawaharlal Nehru University) on 'Active Ageing' took place at the Institute of Gerontology, Heidelberg University. It was attended by Phd Students from JNU (School of Social Sciences), M.A. students from HU (Institute of Gerontology, South Asia Institute and Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies), and Indian-German project members. The aim of the event was twofold – it included the visit of the European Film Festival for Generations and a lecture series on "Images of Age and Ageing".

The Winter School started with a visit of the official Opening of the 8th European Film Festival for Generations at the Cinemaxx in Mannheim. Opening film was the German production "Leanders letzte Reise". To gain insight into the film festival was for project members in particular a useful experience, as the first "Film Festival for Generations" in India organised by the project will take place in New Delhi at the India International Centre from 24th-26th September 2018. Aim of the festival is to contribute to the intergenerational dialogue and to sensitize society on topics such as demographic change and ageing by screening fiction and documentary films on age-relevant topics. The winter school continued with a three-day lecture series on images of age and ageing and further age-related themes at the Institute of Gerontology. Prof. Dr. Andreas Kruse (Institute of Gerontology) introduced in his lectures the psychological and sociological analysis of age and ageing as well as the research on images of age and ageing. Dr. Michael Doh (Institute of Gerontology) explored in his presentation the concept and organisation of the "Film Festival for Generations" sharing also insights into his experiences and knowledge about the festival as its founder. Dr. Holger Pressel (AOK Baden Württemberg) spoke about the German Health care system, its history and focussed in particular on statutory and private health insurances. Further speakers were Dr. Christoph Rott (Institute of Gerontology) giving a lecture on "Why centenarians might become a model of the oldest old in the future – even in India" and on "Aims and Strategies of promoting physical activity in old age on a local governmental level" and Fiona Rupprecht (Department of Psychological Ageing research, Institute of Psychology) speaking on "Subjective Ageing". The Winter School concluded with another visit of the Film Festival for Generations followed by a farewell dinner.



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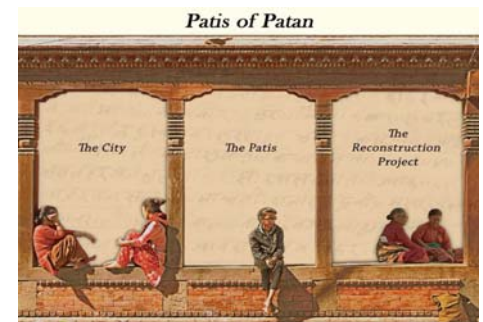
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INTERACTIVE PLATFORM „PATIS OF PATAN“

Members of Heidelberg University, Kathmandu University and Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust (KVPT) launched the interactive platform „Patis of Patan“. It was created with the goal of preserving the memory and raising awareness about the importance of the patis, or phalcā in Newari, located in the Kathmandu Valley.



This project was collated and designed at the chair of visual and media anthropology and is a result of a collaboration between a group of researchers from both Germany and Nepal, the Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe in a Global Context" and the Heidelberg Research Architecture (HRA) at the University of Heidelberg, Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust, SAI HELP NEPAL and the Barbara and Wilfried Mohr Stiftung.

NEW WEBSITE OF "ACTIVE AGEING" PROJECT

The cooperation project "New Directions in 'Active Ageing' and 'Age-friendly Culture' in India and Germany" between Heidelberg University (HU), Germany, and Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), India, has launched its new website (www.active-ageing-hd.de). It contains a description of the academic program and themes of the DAAD-funded project, presents activities, which have taken place in Heidelberg and Delhi since start of the project 2016, and announces upcoming events.

New Directions in
Active Ageing and
Age-Friendly Culture
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UPCOMING EVENTS

- 19th/20th/24th September 2018
Workshop "Caring Relations, Caring for Ageing", New Delhi
- 21st/22nd/23rd/25th September 2018
Autumn School "Ageing and Gender", New Delhi
- 24th - 26th September 2018
1st International Film Festival for Generations, New Delhi
- 17th - 15th December 2018
Workshop "Political and Ethical Discourses on Responsibility in and for Old Age", Berlin

Aim of the project is to develop research profiles on themes related to "active ageing" and "age-friendly culture" through pilot projects and PhD research. In addition to that, it implements an innovative teaching profile through a series of prominent lectures, summer and winter schools and the initiation of the "Film Festival for Generations" in India.

Participants from Heidelberg University are the Institute of Gerontology (Prof. Andreas Kruse, Dr. Michael Doh), the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies (Prof. Christiane Brosius), and the South Asia Institute (Prof. William S. Sax, Dr. Martin Gieselmann). The New Delhi partners from Jawaharlal Nehru University include the Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies (Prof. Minati Panda), the Centre for the Study of Social Systems (Prof. Surinder Jodhka), and the Centre of Social Medicine & Community Health (Prof. Mohan Rao).

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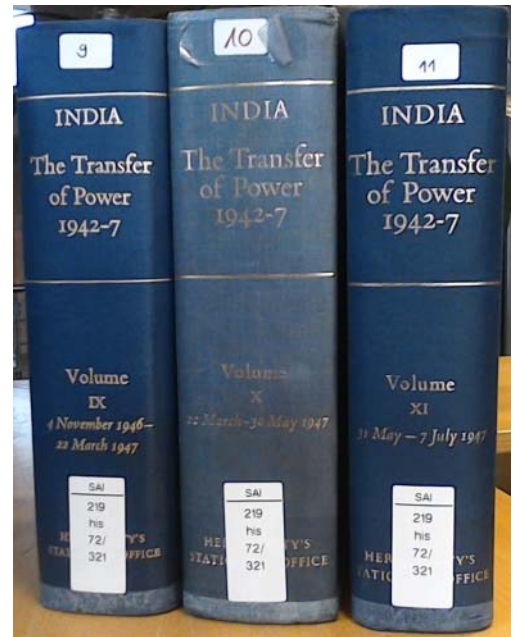
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INNOVATIVE TEACHING FORMATS TAUGHT BY PROF. INDIVAR KAMTEKAR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

by Anneli Stutz

Prof. Indivar Kamtekar, DAAD-Professor at the Department of History, held a series of innovative courses for M.A. students centering on various aspects of South Asian history.

The reading course "Transformations in Everyday Life in Twentieth-Century India" focused on often overlooked changes in the areas of health and medicine, food, dress, sport, transport, entertainment and technology. By motivating the students to dig into often ignored topics, they were able to access new fields of interests and gain new knowledge. The graduate seminar "Endgames of Empire and their Aftermath in South Asia, 1914-1950" made the students explore the Transfer of Power. By using primary sources, little known stories of the Transfer of Power emerged as the students did their research to shed light on the British rule in India. Prof. Kamtekar is getting his students to think about how reading original documents can make people question the received wisdom on a subject. By letting the students read secondary literature and primary sources side by side, he motivates them to discover and develop themes which historians have not yet explored. In the summer Term 2018 he continues this meaningful approach with classes on "The Colonial State in India, 1857-1947" and "The History of Indian Nationalism".



CONGRATULATIONS TO VIOLA BIANCHETTI

Ms. Viola Bianchetti, a student of the M.A. in South Asian Studies with a focus on Political Science and History, has been selected for a five-months traineeship at the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) in Brussels. She will be employed in the Directorate "Relations with Organised Civil Society and Forward Studies" from February. Congratulations on your achievement and we wish you every success in the upcoming months.



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RESEARCH**PEOPLE****BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS****BRANCH OFFICES****CONTACT****LIVED SANSKRIT CULTURES IN VARANASI**

by Anand Mishra

The department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia (Classical Indology), Heidelberg University together with the Chair of Indology, Department of Cultural Studies of East- and South-Asia, Würzburg University organized a four week intensive course on Lived Sanskrit Cultures in Varanasi, India. The course, which will be an annual feature of Heidelberg Sanskrit, is designed to impart a practice-oriented training in methods of cultural and religious studies focusing on how Sanskrit texts are taught, applied, enacted, inscribed in spaces and lived by practitioners, women and men, in Varanasi.



This year 11 students from Australia, Canada, Germany, Russia, New Zealand, Norway and Thailand were selected to participate. Besides working on the three main areas of lived Sanskrit, namely (i) Teaching Sanskrit and the Veda (ii) Performing Rituals and (iii) Processions in Varanasi, the students practiced Spoken Sanskrit with Prof. Dr. Gopabandhu Mishra (Banaras Hindu University) and Vishwajit Pramanik. Apart from this, intensive workshops were organized focusing on Indian calendar system and astrology (Raja Pathak), Śoḍaśopacāra-Pūjā (Prof. Hriday Ranjan Sharma, BHU) and Temples of Varanasi (Vera Lazaretti, Oslo). The students undertook study trips to Sarnath and museums in Varanasi. Vidya Shah, a renowned vocalist, sang the Sanskrit verses from the Gaṅgālaharī of Paṇḍitarāja Jagannātha (17th cent.) and songs by Sundardās, with historical and literary explanations by Prof. Monika Boehm-Tettelbach (Heidelberg University). Several scholars and individuals from Varanasi including the Alice Boner Institute cooperated in its organization. Next year, the course will take place from 18th Feb. – 8th Mar. 2019.



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RESEARCH**PEOPLE****BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS****BRANCH OFFICES****CONTACT****EXCURSION TO MUSEUM RIETBERG IN ZURICH**

by Malini Ambach

On December 8, 2017, the Department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia organised a one-day excursion to Museum Rietberg in Zurich, Switzerland, which hosts large collections of art from non-European cultures. The starting-point of the excursion – which was attended by several students not only from the South Asia Institute – was the temporary exhibition 'Alice Boner in India – A Life for Art' and a meeting with Dr. Johannes Beltz, Deputy Director and Curator of South and Southeast Asian Art at Museum Rietberg. At our arrival Dr. Beltz welcomed us warmly and gave a tour of the collection of South Asian art as well as the Alice Boner exhibition. The latter tells the story of Swiss female artist Alice Boner (1889–1981), who lived more than four decades of her life in Varanasi, India, and besides being an artist herself, spent her time working as an art historian and patron of the arts. The exhibition gave a comprehensive picture of the person Alice Boner and her work by means of a range of object which we could enjoy for ourselves before we proceeded to our meeting with Dr. Beltz. We had a stimulating conversation with him about his way to the Rietberg Museum as a former student of religious and Indian studies, his current work at the museum and possible working opportunities for students of South Asian studies in the field of museum work.

**SPOKEN SANSKRIT: A CRASH COURSE**

From the 05th-29th, June 2018, the Department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia (Classical Indology) organized a Crash Course in Spoken Sanskrit. An annual feature of HeidelbergSanskrit this course provided a unique opportunity to learn Spoken Sanskrit with Prof. Gopabandhu Mishra (Banaras Hindu University, India) who is a speaker of Sanskrit and an experienced teacher of Sanskrit conversation. Twelve students attended the course this year. They practiced dialogues in Sanskrit using basic grammar and vocabulary and had the chance to familiarize themselves with the usage of Sanskrit as well as learn mnemonic techniques and methods of recitation.



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by Shefali More

On April 26th and 27th 2018 the department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia (Classical Indology) organised a two day long excursion to Paris. This excursion provided the opportunity to explore two museums as well as the manuscript world of Paris to the students. On the first day we visited the 'Bibliothèque Nationale de France' (BnF), where Dr. Jerome Petit, who is a librarian and keeper of the South and South-East Asian collection at the manuscripts department, gave us a guided tour of the library and an overview about the history of the library. The BnF has a very good collection of Indian manuscripts on varied topics. With the help of Dr. Petit, we got the chance to see some manuscripts from this collection such as the birch bark manuscript of the complete Vālmīki Rāmāyaṇam. Apart from this, we also saw a painted manuscript scroll with beautiful miniature paintings and some manuscripts with historical ethnographic paintings. Later we attended the evening Pooja at the Ganesh Temple in the "Little India" part of Paris. It was a very unique experience to see Indian culture flourishing outside India. On the second day we visited two museums. During the first half of the day, we visited 'Musée Guimet'. This museum has a very good collection of Asian sculptures and antiques. This collection includes art pieces from the regions ranging from Gandhar to Japan. We were fortunate to visit the special exhibition on Japanese Paintings hosted by the museum during our visit. In the second half of the day we visited 'Musée de Quai Branly', which is an anthropological museum. This huge museum houses various items such as clothing, weapons, jewellery, pottery and other things of daily use which beautifully narrated the anthropological history of all the continents. The museum was also hosting an exhibition on subject 'Ghosts of Asia'. In all, our excursion to Paris was an academically enriching experience.



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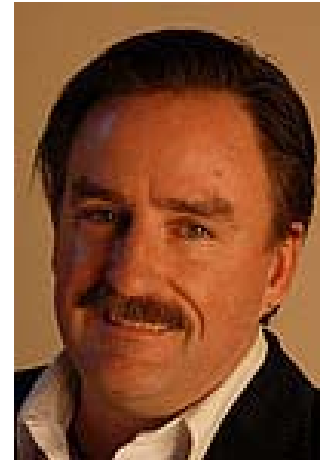
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PROF. SAX LECTURES AT HARVARD, COLUMBIA, CUNY

Prof. William Sax, Head of the Department of Anthropology and currently Executive Director of the South Asia Institute, recently gave a series of lectures at Harvard University, Columbia University, and the City University of New York.



For the CUNY Graduate Studies Centre and Harvard Anthropology Department, Sax gave a lecture entitled, "The Birth of the (Exorcism) Clinic: medicine, modernity, and the Jinn", which was based on his recent research on Muslim healing in Europe, and conducted under the auspices of Heidelberg's Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe". In this lecture, Sax applied a Foucauldian analysis to the rapid growth of certain forms of Muslim healing throughout the world, and particularly in Europe.

For Columbia University and Harvard's South Asia Institute, Sax gave a lecture entitled "Divine Kingdoms of the Western Himalaya: collective agency and divine intentionality." This lecture was based on research that Sax has conducted for over 25 years, on the pre-colonial polities of the Western Himalayas. He is currently writing a book on this topic which will, when complete, be his fourth Monograph about the region.

Sax said that the most gratifying part of his lecture tour was he discovered that undergraduates throughout the USA are still reading, and being inspired by, his books, even though some of them were written nearly 30 years ago.



DIVINE KINGDOMS OF THE WESTERN HIMALAYA FROM SUBJECTS TO CITIZENS

PROFESSOR WILLIAM SAX

Professor and Head of Department of Anthropology, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University

Chair:

RICHARD WOLF

Professor of Music and South Asian Studies, Harvard University

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FOUR DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Four doctoral candidates in the History of South Asia have successfully defended their doctoral dissertations during the summer term 2018: Raphael Schwegmann (*Macht-(W)Orte. Kulturelle Geographien des Rechts und der Ökonomie am Beispiel südasiatischer Migrationsgeschichte(n)*), Ravi Mehra (*Civil Disobedience in Nehruvian India: Lohia, the Socialists and the Nation-wide Civil Disobedience Campaign of 1960*), Ankur Kakkar (*The Dayanand Anglo-Vedic School of Lahore: A Study of Educational Reform in Colonial Punjab, ca. 1885-1925*) and Felix Eickelbeck (*Tierquälerei im kolonialen Indien dekonstruiert: Tierschutzdebatten, Gewalt und Humanitarismus im globalen Tierschutz-Diskurs, ca. 1870-1920*).

DISPUTATION BY RAPHAEL SCHWEGMANN

Raphael Schwegmann, a postdoctoral lecturer at the University of Münster and doctoral student in the Department of History at the SAI, Heidelberg University, successfully defended his dissertation entitled "*Macht-(W)Orte. Kulturelle Geographien des Rechts und der Ökonomie am Beispiel südasiatischer Migrationsgeschichte(n)*" on 2nd May 2018. The PhD-thesis was supervised by Gita Dharampal-Frick and Rainer Maria Kiesow (EHESS Paris) within the German-French doctoral program of Heidelberg University and the EHESS, Paris.

The study, which was submitted in *South Asian History* and undertaken within a framework of historical-geographical research, informed by re-materialized cultural studies, explores case-studies of migration from British India to Europe in the 20th century. Based on individual testimonies of emigrants from Sylhet in East Bengal (today Bangladesh), the doctoral thesis examines the quotidian realizations and reproductions of economic and legal normative orders. The analysis, theoretically located at the interstices between human geography, cultural studies, history, law and economic theory, constitutes an interdisciplinary contribution to the field of South Asia within the global history of capitalism.

Raphael Schwegmann, currently a postdoctoral lecturer in the Institute of Geography, Münster University, teaches human geography with a focus on globalization, mobility and urban studies.



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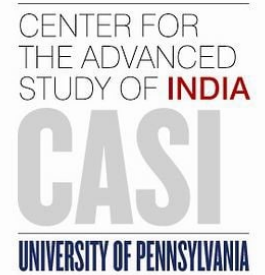
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PEOPLE**BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS****BRANCH OFFICES****CONTACT****PROFESSOR RAHUL MUKHERJI'S LECTURES**

Professor Rahul Mukherji delivered two lectures - one at Oxford (April 25, 2018) and another at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London (April 26, 2018). These presentations were preceded by ones at the University of Pennsylvania (April 9, 2018) and at Columbia (April 12, 2018). Both lectures focused on the capacity of the Indian state to redistribute wealth to the poor. The lectures were based on a paper co-authored with colleagues Dr. Himanshu Jha and Dr. Seyed Hossein Zarhani, and two senior retired civil servants – Mr. K Raju and Dr. Manab Roy. There was a good scholarly engagement in both places, and younger and more senior scholars debated the view that ideas that evolve within the state have to be taken seriously if we wish to understand how the Indian state develops the capacity to act.



Professor Rahul Mukherji also delivered lectures on 'Layering Ideas and the Tipping Point: A Conjecture About State Capacity in India' at The Center for the Advanced Study of India, the University of Pennsylvania on 9th April and at Columbia University on 12th April.



During his recent visit to India, Professor Rahul Mukherji has delivered keynote addresses for the 18th Conference titled 'Inclusive Development: Perspectives and Policies'. The conference was held during 3rd-5th December and was organised by Indian Association of Social Science Institute (IASSI) at Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur in collaboration with Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad. Professor Mukherji also delivered a public lecture at the Centre for Economic and Social Studies in Hyderabad on 8 December 2017.



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GLOBAL INDIA WORKSHOPS



Professor Rahul Mukherji, Dr Himanshu Jha, Mr Jai Prasad, and Ms Tanvi Deshpande, attended the first Global India conference at Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacional (IBEI), Spain, on February 21 - 23, 2018. Global India is a Horizon 2020 funded European Training Network. The network is based at Dublin City University, Ireland, and is composed of six different EU Universities and nine academic and non-academic partners in India. Mr Prasad and Ms Deshpande are the two Marie Curie fellows hosted by Department of Politics, SAI, as part of Global India network. They presented their preliminary research outlines at the network's workshop. Professor Rahul Mukherji, Mr Jai Prasad, and Ms Tanvi Deshpande also attended the second workshop, which took place at the Indian Institute, King's College London in April. The participants discussed EU-India relations after Brexit as well as the impact of 'Multi-Level Governance in India' on both domestic and external policy-making.

Dr. Seyed Hossein Zarhani, lecturer and research fellow at the department of political science, was guest lecturer at the faculty of world studies, University of Tehran, Iran in September and October 2017. During his stay, he offered a post-graduate course on 'Nation Building and Political Development in India.' Moreover, he delivered a lecture on 'Federalism in India: Emerging Trends in the Center States Relations' to the graduate students. In the context of the ongoing research project on bureaucratic culture in India, he visited Hyderabad from September 12 to 20. Dr. Zarhani conducted expert interviews with top-ranked ISA officers, party activists, and regional politician and interacted with academic colleagues at University of Hyderabad and Osmania University on the subject area. On September 14, 2017, Dr. Zarhani, as a guest lecturer, delivered a talk on "Elite Agency, Development and Development in the Indian States" at the Department of Political Science, University of Hyderabad.

Dr. Himanshu Jha delivered lectures on 'Politics of Accountability' and 'Politics of Welfare in India' at the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University (BBAU) in Lucknow, India on 6th and 7th September 2017. On Wednesday, 30th August 2017, he delivered an open lecture at the Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, O. P. Jindal Global University, India on "State Processes, Ideas and Institutional Change: Case of Right to Information Act in India".

Dr. Michael Liebig delivered a talk on 'The Kautilyan Roots of Intelligence Culture in South Asia – A Historical Perspective' on 5th October during a conference titled 'Exploring the Roots of India's Strategic Culture' organised by Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), New Delhi, India.

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PEOPLE**BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS****BRANCH OFFICES****CONTACT****SPEAKING ACROSS BORDERS: A WORKSHOP ON DEBATES AROUND 1600 C.E. IN NORTH INDIA**

by Anand Mishra

On 22nd – 23rd Jan. 2018, the department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia (Classical Indology) organized a two-day workshop on debates around 1600 C.E. in North India to honor Prof. Dr. Monika Boehm-Tettelbach's nomination as International Honorary Member of American Academy of Arts and Sciences. The main aim of the workshop was to discuss the dichroic aspects of the intellectual encounters around 16th century in North India by investigating the vigorous "debates" carried out sometimes directly in imperial and regional courts, but usually indirectly through texts that were composed to counter the arguments of (imaginary, mostly unnamed) opponents. While Peter Flügel (SOAS) and Jerome Petit (Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris) spoke on debates around Jaina Loṅkā-Tradition and its early opponents as well as Jaina reformist movements, Monika Boehm-Tettelbach (Heidelberg University) and Heidi Pauwels (University of Washington) discussed the Nāth Siddhas negotiating the Tantric tradition and Bhakti and discourses around two Nirguṇ texts: Muhammad Bodh and Kāfir Bodh. Michael Bergunder (Heidelberg University) focused on the debates between Advaita Vedānta and Sufi tradition in Banaras and Stefano Pello (University of Venice) talked about Hindu writers of Persian. The workshop also included a reading session of excerpts from Muhammad Bodh and Kāfir Bodh, presentation on Digitizing Jaina Manuscripts at BnF, Paris and performance of Odissi Dance by Prof. Dr. Shobha Rani Dash (Otani University, Kyoto).



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CONGRATULATIONS TO OSKAR GANS

The South Asia Institute congratulated Prof. Dr. Oskar Gans to his 75th anniversary, which he celebrated on May 26th. The emeritus professor of economics was former head of the Department of "International Economics" at the South Asia Institute. Since 2009, he is Visiting Professor at the Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW) in Mannheim.



Oskar Gans studied Economics in Frankfurt and Göttingen and completed his doctorate on "Intersektorale Wachstumsmodelle für wirtschaftlich unterentwickelte Länder" at Georg August University of Göttingen. After post graduate studies in Applied Mathematics at the University of California, Berkeley, he habilitated at Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn on "Beiträge zur Analyse von Welthandelsstrukturen - mit empirischen Untersuchungen zum Außenhandel der Entwicklungs- und Industrieländer".

SIMON CUBELIC RECEIVES START-UP GRANT AND WAS HONORED WITH WALTER-WITZENMANN AWARD

From April to December 2018, Simon Cubelic, research fellow at the Research Unit "Documents on the History of Religion and Law of Premodern Nepal" of the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, is receiving a Start-up grant in the Transcultural Forays Programme of the Cluster "Asia and Europe in a Global Context" to formulate a proposal for an individual research project. The project investigates the different forms of political knowledge produced in Nepal during the first half of the nineteenth century by drawing on a largely unexplored body of Sanskrit and Nepali manuscripts preserved at the National Archives Kathmandu. It analyses the various modes by which Nepal's literati engaged with foreign governmental thought, especially that of England and China, and with Indic traditions of political reasoning, in order to formulate their vision of Gorkhali polity and to intervene into their socio-political context.



Simon Cubelic receives the Walter-Witzenmann award 2018 of the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities for his doctoral dissertation "Die koloniale Restauration des Dharmaśāstra. Das Obligationenrecht in Sarvoru Śarmans Vivādasārṇava" ("The Colonial Restoration of Dharmaśāstra: The Law of Obligations in Sarvoru Śarman's Vivādasārṇava") defended in February 2017. The Walter-Witzenmann award is presented annually for an outstanding thesis in the field of cultural studies submitted at a university or research institution in Baden-Württemberg to researchers below the age of 35.

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BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS**BRANCH OFFICES****CONTACT****GRANTS FOR FILM PROJECT BY JÜRGEN SCHAFLECHNER AND SJOERD VAN TUINEN**

Dr. Jürgen Schaflechner (Department of Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures, SAI) and Sjoerd van Tuinen (University of Rotterdam) have received a special grant from Princeton University's Fung Global Network Fund to produce a film project on the topic of the politics of resentment. This essayistic film will portray the wide spread phenomenon of emotions of resentment in current political climates. It asks if feelings of resentment can lead to movements of justice and equality. The film features interviews with scholars such as Wendy Brown, Didier Fassin, Pankaj Mishra, Oliver Marchart, Alexander Nehamas and Gyan Prakash.

**CHRISTIANE BROSIUS AND AXEL MICHAELS ACCOMPANIED GERMAN PRESIDENT ON TRAVELS IN INDIA**

From March 22-24, Profs. Christiane Brosius (Professor for Visual and Media Anthropology at the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies) and Axel Michaels (Senior professor and former Head of the Department of Classical Indology at SAI) joined the German Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier during his state visit to India as part of the official scientific delegation. On the first day, Axel Michaels and Frank-Walter Steinmeier visited the Archeological Museum and the Buddhist place Sarnath in Varansi. Steinmeier also talked to students of the Benares Hindu University about religious diversity. On the same day, Christiane Brosius joined Elke Büdenbender for a private program. On the second day, the delegation visited the Friday mosque Jama Masjid and Frank-Walter Steinmeier gave a talk at the University of Delhi and engaged in discussion with representatives of the civil society, sciences and economy. The third day was dedicated to receptions and a meeting with the Indian president and the prime minister, but also to meetings with further highranking personalities from public life.



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BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS**BRANCH OFFICES****CONTACT****CONGRATULATIONS TO MEAH MOSTAFIZ**

PhD candidate of the department of Political Science Meah Mostafiz was elected as a member of the Executive Committee, International Representative at Doctoral Students Convention (DSC), Heidelberg University. The elections for the new Executive Committee were held on November 8, 2017, during the DSC's Annual General Assembly. DSC is the official body that supports and voices concerns, issues, and interests of all doctoral students/researchers in front of different departments and committees within and outside Heidelberg University.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO BERNHARD BEITELMAIER-BERINI**

Congratulations to Bernhard Beitelmaier-Berini for successfully defending his doctoral dissertation! The viva voce on his work titled "Delineating India's Strategic Pluralism: The Subculture-Cleavage Model of Grand Strategic Thought", was marked by his committee of Professor Subrata K. Mitra, Professor Yale H. Ferguson and Professor Rahul Mukherji with magna cum laude.

**WELCOMES****RONJA GOTTSCHLING**

The Department of Political Science warmly welcomed Ronja Gottschling. She is a Master Student in South Asia Studies focusing on Political Science, Languages and Literature. This summer semester she joined the team and leads a tutorial in Qualitative Research Methods in Political Science every Friday. Her research interests are political conflicts, mobilization and protest and the relationship between religion and politics. Currently, she holds a position as a Head of the Working Group Asia & Oceania (esp. Pakistan) at the Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research.

**SHEFALI MORE**

We cordially welcomed Shefali More, who just joined the Cultural and Religious History Department as PhD researcher and collaborator in Prof. Dr. Ute Hüsken's project "Dynamics of Female Agency in Hinduism and Buddhism". She has studied Sanskrit Literature with specialisation in Vedic Studies at the University of Mumbai. At present she is working on her doctoral thesis "Role of Women in the Vedic Ritualistic Tradition". Vedic Literature being her main area of interest, her research focuses on studying the social system in Vedic texts through its close analysis.



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Prof. Partha S. Ghosh, a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi, is hosted by the Department of History at the South Asia Institute during his research visit as a Humboldt Fellow from May 1 to July 31, 2018. Ghosh was Professor of South Asian Studies at SIS, JNU, a Senior Fellow at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi and an ICSSR National Fellow at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi. His academic interests include South Asian Politics, Migration, Ethnicity, Majority-Minority relations, and Domestic Politics-Foreign Policy Interface.



Earlier, he was a Visiting Professor at the OKD Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati, a Humboldt Fellow at the Heidelberg University, a Ford Visiting Scholar at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi. For many years Ghosh served as a Research Director at the Indian Council of Social Science Research [IC-SSR], New Delhi.

His latest publications include a second edition of his 1999 book with the modified title: BJP and the Evolution of Hindu Nationalism: Savarkar to Vajpayee to Modi (New Delhi: Manohar, 2017) and Migrants, Refugees and the Stateless in South Asia (New Delhi: Sage, 2016). His forthcoming publication is the second edition of his 2007 book The Politics of Personal Law in South Asia: Identity, Nationalism and the Uniform Civil Code (London: Routledge, 2018).

MR. RANJITH GUNARATNA

A warm welcome to a new Ph.D. candidate, Ranjith Gunaratna, who has recently joined the department of Political Science. His Ph.D. topic is "Diaspora, an agent of change: the case of Sri Lanka". His other research interests include counter-terrorism, Sri Lankan workers in the Middle East and Sri Lanka's relations with China. Mr. Gunaratna is a current Sri Lankan Consul General based in Frankfurt.

**PROF. JAKUB ZAJĄCZKOWSKI**

We have a pleasure to host Professor Jakub Zajaczowski (Warsaw University) who is visiting the Department of Political Science from Wednesday, 27th of September. During his stay, Prof. Zajaczowski has presented on the topic "India's Strategy in the Indo-Pacific Region: An Offensive Realist Approach". The talk was held on Thursday, 28th of September.



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PROFESSOR K.C. SURI

Professor Suri joined the Department of Political Science as DAAD guest Professor in summer semester 2018 and winter semester 2018-19. He teaches courses on Political Parties in India, Comparative Politics and Indian Political Process as well as Elections and Voting Behaviour in India. Previously, he was awarded Baden Württemberg Fellowship of the Federal State of Baden Württemberg and visited the SAI in winter semester 2016-17. Suri teaches at the Department of Political Science at the University of Hyderabad. His recent publications include Political Parties in South Asia: The Challenge of Change, Indian Democracy, ICSSR Research Surveys and Explorations: Political Science: Volume 2 and Party Competition in Indian States: Electoral Politics in Post-Congress Polity. He has published many book chapters and papers in national and international journals on different themes pertaining to politics and policies in India. He was a visiting scholar at Uppsala University, Sweden, and Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia. Presently he is the Managing Editor of Studies in Indian Politics, a bi-annual Political Science journal published in India by the Sage.



TANVI DESHPANDE AND JAI SHANKAR PRASAD

A warm welcome to our new Ph.D. candidates, Tanvi Deshpande and Jai Shankar Prasad at the Department of Political Science. Deshpande is working on 'India and the Politics of Climate Change', whereas Prasad studies the topic on 'Revisiting the State: Politics, Development, and Tribal Welfare in Jharkhand, India'. Their Ph.D. training is a part of the Global India Programme which is Horizon 2020 funded European Training Network. They will pursue their research under the supervision of Professor Rahul Mukherji.



TOMASZ LUKASZUK

Tomasz Lukaszuk, former Polish Ambassador to India, fellow at Global India Marie Curie program, was at a study visit at SAI from April 8th to 20th. Ambassador Lukaszuk held meetings and consultations with Professor Rahul Mukherji, Dr. Himanshu Jha and Dr. Seyed Hossein Zarhani, focusing on the role of India in maritime governance in the Indian Ocean Region, which is his research interest. He had the opportunity to access SAI library and enjoy its collection of books and articles on Indian Ocean Region and maritime strategies of its littoral countries as well as external powers.



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- ▶ Ronja Gottschling
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- ▶ Professor Gopabandhu Mishra
- ▶ Sumit Ganguly
- ▶ Dr. Dieter Reinhardt
- ▶ Ramhari Timalsina

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DR. ANTON PIYARATHNE

We cordially welcomed Dr. Anton Piyarathne as new Sri Lanka Chair holder (April to September 2018) at the South Asia Institute. He is a Senior Lecturer in Anthropology/Sociology at the Open University of Sri Lanka. He received his PhD in Anthropology at the Department of Anthropology, Macquarie University, Australia in 2014. His thesis focused on „Constructing Commongrounds: Everyday Lifeworlds Beyond Politicised Ethnicities in Sri Lanka“.



Before his PhD, Piyarathne graduated with a MA in Sociology at University of Colombo. His master thesis focused on „A Sociological Analysis of the Changing Social Identity of Estate Tamil Workers“.

His research interests comprise Ethnoreligious Nationalism, Nation Building, National Integration, Disintegration, Ethnicity and Ethnic Boundary Negotiations, Religious Pluralism and Religious Syncretism, Religious Rituals and Pilgrimage, Urban Religious Practices, Ethnic Conflict and Peace Making, Development and Resettlement, Social Stratification Systems and Existential Realities.

HERIBERT BECKMANN

We cordially welcomed Heribert Beckmann at the Department of Anthropology as Assistant Professor. He obtained his Bachelor's degree in Social and Cultural Anthropology and Islamic Studies from Tübingen and his Master's degree in the MA Social Anthropology of Development from SOAS, University of London.



In March 2018 he completed his doctoral degree with the title „‘You’ll only have rice in your hands, if you have your feet in the mud!’ Changes in the Enactment of Rice, Body, Environment, and Social Inequality in a Rice- Cultivating Village in Tamil Nadu, India“ at Tübingen University.

His main interests lie in the anthropology and sociology of food, agriculture, and nutrition, environmental and medical anthropology, and the anthropology of development in and beyond South Asia. His current research focus is on the experience and understanding of ‚diseases of modernity‘ among residents of rural and urban Tamil Nadu.

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- ▶ Ramhari Timalsina

BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS**BRANCH OFFICES****CONTACT****PROFESSOR GÉRARD COLAS**

In May and June, 2018 the department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia hosted Prof. Dr. Gérard Colas as Guest Professor within the framework of University scheme: „Verstärkung des internationalen Austausches: Internationale Gastprofessuren“. Professor Colas is a senior researcher at the EHESS-CNRS (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales du Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique), which is France’s leading academic institution for South Asia. His doctorat de 3e cycle was devoted to the study of the architectural guidelines laid out in a Sanskrit text, as compared to temples in South India (1982). His doctorat d’État (1994) consisted in a study of the medieval Sanskrit literature produced by the Vaikhānasas, Vaishnavite temple priests in South India.



During his stay in Heidelberg, Prof. Colas gave a series of lectures on “Understanding Religious Icons in Ancient India”. In his talks he examined the diversity of Indian viewpoints about religious icons from the earliest testimonies up to around 13th century. Relying primarily on Sanskrit sources, he surveyed Vedic, late Vedic, Buddhist (relic worship), devotional, paleographical, philosophical, artisanal, ritual and other contexts. While examining the topic of the icon, which is of major importance in Indian culture, the talks also entailed critical discussions about methodologies and the historical approach.

His research fields include concepts of religious icon, normative texts on temple rituals, ritual and music as known from ancient Sanskrit texts, textual criticism, transmission of texts and paleography of ancient India, Catholic and Protestant missionaries in India and their works in Sanskrit and Telugu and history of Sanskrit scholastics.

PROFESSOR GOPABANDHU MISHRA

We cordially welcomed Prof. Gopabandhu Mishra from Benares Hindu University as teacher of the Spoken Sanskrit Crash Course, which takes place from 5 to 29 June 2018 at the South Asia Institute. He teaches Sanskrit and Pāṇinian Grammar at the Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India. Besides several books and research papers on Pāṇinian Grammar, he has published a number of literary works in Sanskrit, which include plays and short stories, a travelogue — Purastāt Paris — and a Sanskrit translation of „The Little Prince“ — Kanīyān Rājakumārah.



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BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS**BRANCH OFFICES****CONTACT****SUMIT GANGULY**

The South Asia Institute cordially welcomed Sumit Ganguly as recipient of the Humboldt Research Award to be hosted by the Department of Politics. Sumit Ganguly is a Distinguished Professor of Political Science, and holds the Rabindranath Tagore Chair in Indian Cultures and Civilizations, at Indiana University, Bloomington. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (elected 2017). A specialist on the contemporary politics of South Asia, Professor Ganguly's research spans security, ethnic conflict, democratization, foreign policy, and international politics of that region.

**DR. DIETER REINHARDT**

The South Asia Institute cordially welcomed Dr. Dieter Reinhardt at the Department of Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures. The political scientist will hold the lecture "Transnational social change, secularism, identity and islamization: the example of Bangladesh", which takes place Tuesdays, 4-6 pm in room 316, SAI. Reinhardt is teacher at the Rhine Waal University of Applied Science and worked before at the Institute for Development and Peace (INEF) at the University Duisburg-Essen and at the University Osnabrück. His focal points of teaching and research are UN missions in violent conflicts, theories of International Relations and regionalization, Sino-Indian relations and Bangladesh politics and socio-economic development.

**RAMHARI TIMALSINA**

From April to December 2018, Ramhari Timalsina joins the Research Unit "Documents on the History of Religion and Law of Premodern Nepal" of the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities as research fellow as substitution for Simon Cubelic who is receiving a Start-up grant at the Cluster "Asia and Europe in a Global Context". Ramhari Timalsina studied Classical Indology and Linguistics at Nepal Sanskrit University and Tribhuvan University. He is currently about to submit his PhD dissertation at Georg-August-Universität Göttingen. His dissertation deals with the Cāndra system of Sanskrit grammar. He was awarded with Erasmus Sustain grant for his PhD from March 2015 to February 2018. His current research focuses on the linguistic analysis of administrative and legal documents of premodern Nepal, especially produced in the 18th and 19th centuries.



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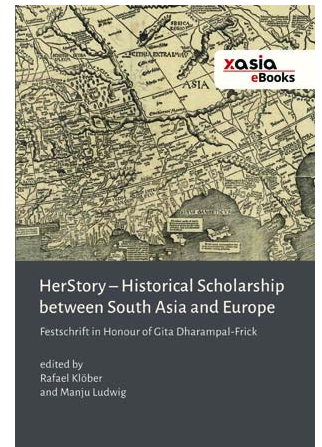
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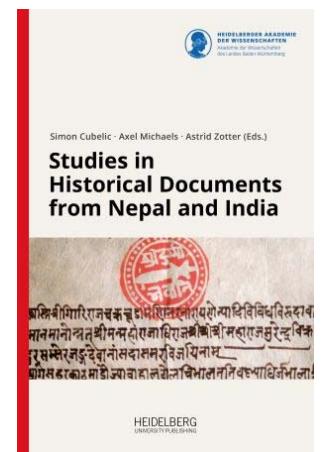
FESTSCHRIFT IN HONOUR OF GITA DHARAMPAL-FRICK

CrossAsia published the Festschrift in honour of Professor Dr. Gita Dharampal-Frick entitled "HerStory. Historical Scholarship between South Asia and Europe", edited by Rafael Klöber and Manju Ludwig (Department of History at SAI). The volume brings together innovative contributions by friends, colleagues and former students to the multiple research areas in the field of history of South Asia that Gita Dharampal-Frick has enriched over the last decades. The essays included in this volume address a broad number of topics and periods, ranging from transcultural encounters between South Asia and Europe, reassessments of colonial discourses and their legacies, novel approaches to the maritime history of the Indian Ocean, and to perspectives on M. K. Gandhi.



STUDIES IN HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS FROM NEPAL AND INDIA

Heidelberg University Publishing published the anthology "Studies in Historical Documents from Nepal and India" by Simon Cubelic, Axel Michaels and Astrid Zotter. This volume is the outcome of the conference "Studying Documents in Premodern South Asia and Beyond: Problems and Perspective", held in October 2015 in Heidelberg. In bringing together experts from different fields, it aims at exploring and rethinking issues of diplomacy and typology, the place of documents in relation to other texts and literary genres, methods of archiving and editing documents, as well as their "social life".



SHEELA SARAVANAN: „A TRANSNATIONAL FEMINIST VIEW OF SURROGACY BIOMARKETS IN INDIA“

Springer published the new book „A Transnational Feminist View of Surrogacy Biomarkets in India“ by Sheela Saravanan (Department of Anthropology). This book takes a reproductive justice approach to argue that surrogacy as practised in the contemporary neoliberal biomarkets crosses the humanitarian thresholds of feminism. Drawing on her ethnographic work with surrogate mothers, intended parents and medical practitioners in India, Saravanan shows the dark connections between poverty, gender, human rights violations and indignity in the surrogacy market.

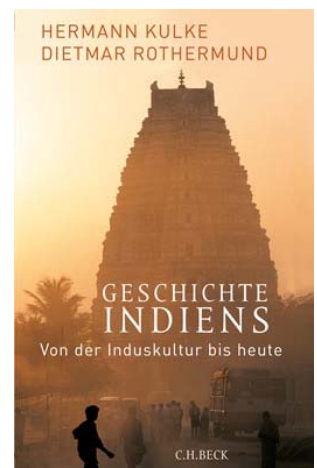


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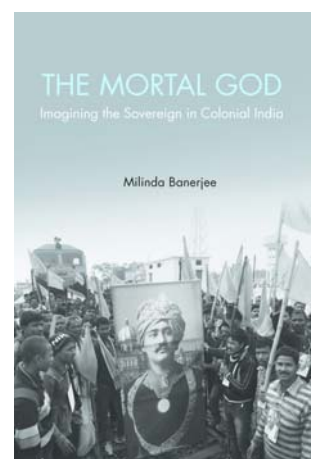
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BRANCH OFFICES**CONTACT****DIETMAR ROTHERMUND & HERMANN KULKE: GESCHICHTE INDIENS**

C.H. Beck recently published the book "Geschichte Indiens - Von der Induskultur bis heute" by Prof. Hermann Kulke (Professor Emeritus of Asian History and former member of the Department of History at the SAI) and Prof. Dietmar Rothermund (Emeritus Professor of the Department of History at the SAI). C.H. Beck also published Dietmar Rothermund's book "Geschichte Indiens - Vom Mittelalter bis zur Gegenwart". Both books are dealing with India and its history, traditions, culture, languages and politics.

**MILINDA BANERJEE: THE MORTAL GOD - IMAGINING THE SOVEREIGN IN COLONIAL INDIA**

Cambridge University Press published "The Mortal God - Imagining the Sovereign in Colonial India" by Milinda Banerjee. The book presents his dissertation written under the supervision of Prof. Gita Dharampal-Frick (Head of the Department of History at SAI). Milinda Banerjee teaches at the Department of History, Presidency University, Kolkata and is Research Fellow at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich. The Mortal God is a study in intellectual history which uncovers how actors in colonial India imagined various figures of human, divine, and messianic rulers to battle over the nature and locus of sovereignty. It studies British and Indian political-intellectual elites as well as South Asian peasant activists, giving particular attention to Bengal, including the associated princely states of Cooch Behar and Tripura.

**SPECIAL ISSUE OF INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HINDU STUDIES**

Prof. Monika Boehm-Tettelbach (former head of Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures) and Anand Mishra (Department of Classical Indology) edited the special issue of International Journal of Hindu Studies titled: "Transcreating the Bhāgavata Purāṇa". Apart from a joint Introduction to the Volume, Boehm-Tettelbach wrote on "Three Brajbhāṣā Versions of the Bhāgavata Purāṇa" and Mishra on "Meaning in the Structure of the Bhāgavata Purāṇa".



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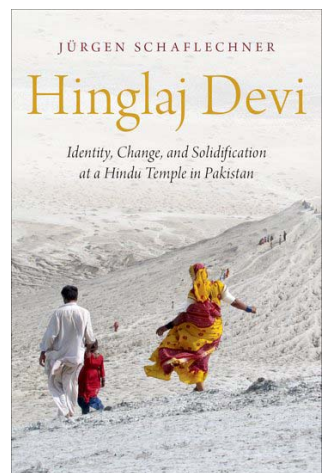
CHRISTOF ZOTTER: ASKETEN AUF ZEIT

After its integration into the series of life-cycle rituals (saṃskāra) in the first millennium BC, the Brahmanical initiation (upanayana) underwent continual revision and reinterpretation. Today it is performed during a ritual complex called vratabandha, in which it is conducted together with three other saṃskāras, the whole set being embedded in a preliminary and framing ritual. In his book *Asketen auf Zeit: Das brahmanische Initiationsritual der Bāhun und Chetrī im Kathmandu-Tal*, Christof Zotter employs a combination of textual studies and fieldwork to examine the principles by which a particular Vedic school and a concrete context combines and adapts elements of different types of ritual in order to accommodate itself to changing times and circumstances.



JÜRGEN SCHAFLECHNER: HINGLAJ DEVI

Dr. Jürgen Schaflechner's (Department of Modern Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures) first book, "*Hinglaj Devi: Identity, Change, and Solidification at a Hindu Temple in Pakistan*" was published by Oxford University Press New York. The Heidelberg PhD dissertation of 2014 is "the first monograph to address the beliefs and practices of Hindus in today's Islamic Republic of Pakistan". It combines a wide-ranging literary study based in historical sources in their original languages with extensive ethnographic research and engages with and builds upon recent theories on identity and group formation.



ANNA MARTIN: ÜBERSETZUNG ALS KULTURELLER TRANSFER

CrossAsia-eBooks, the Open Access publication platform for Asian studies, published the study "*Übersetzung als kultureller Transfer: Eine Untersuchung persischer Versionen des indischen Vikrama-Erzählzyklus*" by Anna Martin, postdoctoral research fellow at the Department of Iranian Studies at the University of Marburg. She examines a 17th century Persian adaptation of the Vikrama story called the Kisanbilas („Kisan's dalliance“) by an author named Kisandas.

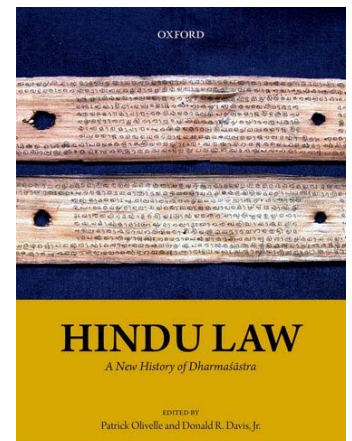


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BRANCH OFFICES**CONTACT****AXEL MICHAELS IN "THE OXFORD HISTORY OF HINDUISM"**

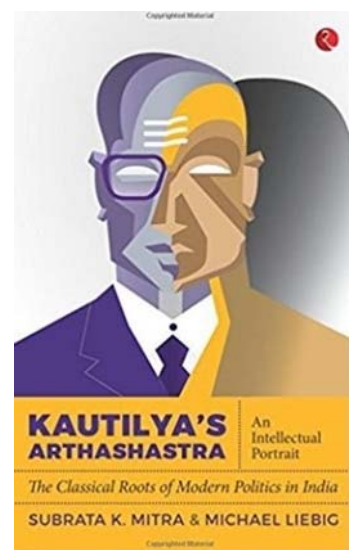
The book „The Oxford History of Hinduism: Hindu Law - A New History of Dharmaśāstra“, edited by Patrick Olivelle and Donald R. Davis, includes the chapters “Rites of Passage: saṃskāras” and “Ritual” by Prof. Dr. Axel Michaels (former head of the Department of Classical Indology). Through pointed studies of important aspects and topics of dharma in Dharmaśāstra, this comprehensive collection shows that the history of Hinduism cannot be written without the history of Hindu law. Part One provides a concise overview of the literary genres in which Dharmasāstra was written with attention to chronology and historical developments. Part Two presents descriptive and historical studies of all the major substantive topics of Dharmasāstra. Each chapter offers readers with salient knowledge of the debates, transformations, and fluctuating importance of each topic. Indirectly, readers will also gain insight into the ethos or worldview of religious law in Hinduism, enabling them to get a feel for how dharma authors thought and why. Part Three contains brief studies of the impact and reception of Dharmasāstra in other South Asian cultural and textual traditions. Finally, Part Four draws inspiration from "critical terms" in contemporary legal and religious studies to analyze Dharmasāstra texts. Contributors offer interpretive views of Dharmasāstra that start from hermeneutic and social concerns today.



THE OXFORD HISTORY OF HINDUISM

SUBRATA K. MITRA AND MICHAEL LIEBIG: KAUTILYA'S ARTHASHASTRA

The co-authored book of Dr. Liebig titled Kautilya's Arthashastra: An Intellectual Portrait: The Classical Roots of Modern Politics in India showcases the endogenous politico-strategic thought that underpins India's rise in the 21st century. The political institutions and processes in contemporary India have remained deeply grounded in its pre-modern political heritage, succinctly codified in Kautilya's Arthashastra. These themes are explored through such bridge concepts as the 'modernity of tradition' and the 're-use of the past' in tackling contemporary political problems. These concepts are key factors that explain the resilience and stability of India's hybrid political institutions and democratic system as well as its foreign policy conduct. Even though Kautilya's Arthashastra is a foundational text of Political Science and International Relations theory, it has, so far, been largely marginalized in Political Science. Mitra's and Liebig's book is meant to change that. As well, the volume provides a major contribution to South Asian area studies, comparative politics and comparative political theory.



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HIMANSHU JHA'S RECENT PUBLICATION

'Emerging Politics of Accountability: Institutional Progression of the Right to Information Act' Economic & Political Weekly 53(10): 47-54.

The implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2005 in Bihar is studied to examine the progression and deepening of institutional change. The institutional progression is inextricably linked to change in the political regime and the resultant shifts in policy priorities. The act has opened up a new space for accountability between state and society, its use is often linked to local politics, and a new form of elite agency has emerged, whose practitioners this article categorises as "agents of accountability." These agents are different from the category of elite agency discussed in scholarly literature, such as the "expansive elite," pyraveekars, gaon ka neta, "political fixers," or naya netas.

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RAHUL MUKHERJI'S AND HIMANSHU JHA'S RECENT PUBLICATION

'Bureaucratic Rationality, Political Will, and State Capacity - MGNREGS in Undivided Andhra Pradesh' Economic & Political Weekly, vol. 52(49) pp: 53-60.

The successful implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in undivided Andhra Pradesh underlines the triumph of citizen formation over patron-client politics, aided by a democratic politics. This article argues that its success in Andhra Pradesh depended heavily on how the ideas within the rural development bureaucracy interacted with the political executive. This synergy engendered a state's capacity to insulate a committed bureaucracy from powerful farmers and construction companies who had a clear interest in thwarting the programme. Elections can in a democracy elevate citizen concern over particularistic populism when political will is matched by ideational conviction in the bureaucracy.



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- ▶ Smart City Workshop in Aizawl, Mizoram OR Aizawl: On a Smart City Mission
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BRANCH OFFICE IN NEW DELHI

LAUNCH OF PROF. DR. HERMANN KULKE'S "HISTORY OF PRECOLONIAL INDIA: ISSUES AND DEBATES"

by Radu Carciumaru

The English edition of Professor Dr. Kulke's seminal work "History of Precolonial India: Issues and Debates" was launched on March 16, 2018, at India International Centre, New Delhi. The guest of honor Prof. Dr. Romila Thapar, one of the doyens of Indian historians, inaugurated the event. The subsequent panel discussion consisted of contributions from distinguished historians such as Prof. Dr. Ranabir Chakrabarti (CHS, JNU), Prof. Dr. Upinder Singh (University of Delhi). Max Mueller Bhavan New Delhi and Oxford University Press financed the English edition, which was originally published in German by Oldenbourg Verlag, Munich 2005.

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

cordially invites you to the book launch of

**HISTORY OF PRECOLONIAL INDIA:
ISSUES AND DEBATES**

by
Hermann Kulke

English edition revised and edited by
Bhairabi Prasad Sahu

Friday, **March 16, 2018**
6:00 pm onwards
Conference Room-II,
India International Centre, Delhi

PANELISTS

Prof Ranabir Chakrabarti
Prof Upinder Singh
Prof Thomas R. Trautmann

GUEST OF HONOUR

Prof Romila Thapar

Kindly join us for high tea 5:30 pm onwards
RSVP: shivangi.sharma@oup.com

The volume represents a three-way collaboration of Prof. Kulke, who wrote the original German text; Parnal Chirmuley, who translated it into English; and Prof. Bhairabi Prasad Sahu, who edited and revised the English translation. Further to editing the volume, Prof. Sahu made significant contributions such as, for example, extending the chapter of Delhi Sultanate or adding the new chapter on "The Histories of Women". The book has the following structure: The first part (Historical Representations) gives what is broadly a political, socio-economic and cultural history. The second (Trends in History) identifies and elaborates on trends in research. The third part comprises comprehensive thematically structured bibliographies.

Prof. Singh praised the book as an excellent introduction to the history of precolonial India, both for students and general readers, which situates Indian history within a much larger geographical frame and forms a valuable contribution to scholarly writing on Indian history.

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CONTACT**SMART CITY WORKSHOP IN AIZAWL, MIZORAM OR AIZAWL: ON A SMART CITY MISSION**

by Radu Carciumaru

Heidelberg University, School of Planning and Architecture Delhi, Observer Research Foundation and the Mizoram University, in collaboration with the Indo-German Chamber of Commerce, Institute for Human Development, GIZ and other prominent institutions from India and Germany, conducted a workshop on 'Smart City: Sustainable Urban Development' in Aizawl, Mizoram, on April 27.

Aizawl was included in the all-India list of cities selected under the Indian government's Smart Cities Mission. Under the Mission, selected cities are receiving technical and financial support for implementing smart projects. Following the selection, the city and its citizens started working on the proposal, which offers a vision of Aizawl over the next 5 – 10 years. The proposal calls for: (a) creating a city identity based on Mizo culture and physio-geographic features; (b) promoting social inclusiveness; (c) developing sustainable economic environment by creating opportunities; (d) preparing resilient infrastructure through ICT interventions; and (e) up-skilling human capital. In view of these events, the workshop was highly anticipated. It brought together scholars, experts and practitioners, from both public and private sector, covering various aspects of a sustainable urbanization and urban governance, such as Inclusive Cities, Waste & Energy management, Infrastructure & Mobility, Planning and Design.

The workshop was inaugurated by the Governor of Mizoram Lt. Gen. Nirbhay Sharma, who stated that Aizawl and Mizoram will soon become a crucial player once connectivity issues, both digital and physical ones, are sorted out. The Governor emphasized the participatory role of the citizens, which are the key to the success of any smart city project. Mizoram University Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. KRS Samibava Rao highlighted the need to formulate a smart city plan that caters to the need of a particular population as the definition of smart city differs from one city to another. With regard to Aizawl, he focused in particular on solid waste and sewerage management, urban public transport and multi-specialty hospitals. The keynote address was delivered by Professor Dr. Amitabh Kundu, distinguished fellow at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS).

During 2016 and 2017, Heidelberg University, jointly with ORF and SPA, organized similar workshops in Bangalore (jointly with the Delegation of the EU to India and CNRS), Bhubaneswar, Coimbatore, Kochi, Kolkata, New Delhi, Pune and Shimla, and the initiative will be continued beyond 2018.

The main purpose of this series of events is to add to the visibility of the Heidelberg University and the German scientific landscape; to deepen the collaboration between German and Indian scientific communities; to initiate a dialogue between Indian and German scholars and practitioners on Smart Cities; to publish and circulate a comprehensive policy paper consisting of recommendations for stakeholders and decision makers; to establish a long-term platform for exchange between scholars and practitioners, both in India and Germany, working on Smart Cities (The Network); to contribute to and influence the ongoing debate on smart cities in India and Germany.



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CONTACT**PROFESSOR DR. UTE HÜSKEN INAUGURATES A NEW SERIES OF LECTURES**

by Radu Carciumaru

On January 30, at Siddartha Hall, Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan New Delhi, Professor Dr. Ute Hüsken (Head, Department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia (Classical Indology), South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University) inaugurated a new lecture

series under the overarching theme of "Current Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences on India in Germany". The lecture series was jointly established and organized by South Asia Institute and Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan, New Delhi.



Professor Hüsken's highly anticipated lecture entitled "On Female Ritual Agency in Sanskrit Hinduism" presented the specific historical background of women receiving training in Sanskrit and in ritual practice, and performing as priestesses in Pune in front of a lively and engaged audience, which consisted of students, researchers, representatives from NGOs and government agencies as well as general public. The inaugural lecture was superbly discussed, chaired and moderated by Professor Dr. Shonaleeka Kaul (Centre for Historical Studies, JNU).

IN MEMORIAM: DR. DAGMAR GRÄFIN V. BERNSTORFF

by Radu Carciumaru

Dagmar Bernstorff (12 August 1929 - 24 February 2018) passed away in the morning of February 24, 2018. A former Senior Research Fellow at South Asia Institute, Dr. Dagmar Gräfin v. Bernstorff was a highly respected and very active member of German community of scholars in India. Dagmar Bernstorff studied Political Science with special reference to South Asia at the Universities of Munich, Freiburg i.B., London (SOAS) leading to her work on Indian foreign policy (Indiens Rolle in der Weltpolitik, Baden-Baden 1965). She taught



Political Science and International Relations South Asia at the Universities of Munich and the South Asia Institute of Heidelberg University. Her research in India includes an election study in Telengana (Wahlkampf in Indien, Düsseldorf 1971), regional movements and political leadership (The Kingmakers – Politicians and Politics in Andhra Pradesh, New Delhi 1998). Dagmar Bernstorff followed recent history of Tibet and has published on the Tibetan Exile Community with focus on the preservation of their culture, such as "Exile as Challenge: The Tibetan Diaspora" (2004, together with Hubertus von Welck) or "Tibet: Theocracy to Democracy" (2016).

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MAP OF THE AREA**Arriving by car from Autobahn A656**

Turn left towards “Chirurgie” and “Zoo” at the end of the Autobahn. Cross the Neckar on Ernst-Waltz-Brücke. You are now at “Berliner Straße”. At the third traffic light turn left and enter into the Neuenheimer Feld Campus. After ca. 200 m the SAI is on the left hand side. Use one out of three public parking lots close to the institute.

Public Transport

From Heidelberg main station: Take bus line 32 or 21 (direction towards “Neuenheim”). Get off at the stop “Kopfklinik” or “Pädagogische Hochschule”. Bus line 31 also brings you to University Square (Uniplatz) in Heidelberg Old Town and back.

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